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For Immediate Release
Date: August 13, 2011
Time: 1:00 a.m.

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Edward Hamilton DeHart, Jr. is in custody tonight following a pursuit with law enforcement officers.

A Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy spotted DeHart traveling on Route 8 heading from Riner toward Christiansburg around 11:30 p.m. in the Toyota Avalon reported stolen earlier in the evening.

The deputy followed DeHart and was joined by another Montgomery County Sheriff's deputy as the suspect's vehicle turned on northbound Interstate 81 at the mile marker 114 entrance ramp.

The deputies activated their emergency equipment in an attempt to stop DeHart, who fled the scene.

The deputies were joined in their pursuit by an officer from the Christiansburg Police Department.

DeHart and the pursuing deputies and officer continued north on Interstate 81, until DeHart attempted to exit at 118-C.

It was there that DeHart apparently lost control of his vehicle and crashed.

DeHart was taken into custody without further incident at approximately 11:36 p.m.

DeHart was found to be wounded from the incident that occurred at the Radford Travel Center early Friday morning. The exact extent of his injuries is unknown at this time, though they do not appear to be life threatening. He is receiving appropriate medical treatment.

DeHart was also found to be in possession of a handgun.

Additional charges for breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, and possession of a firearm after being a convicted felon are expected to be filed against DeHart related to tonight's incident. Though the specific counts have yet to be determined, numerous additional charges are also expected to be filed.

These charges are in addition to the numerous outstanding warrants held by the Christiansburg and Radford Police Departments and Montgomery and Pulaski County Sheriff's Offices, including felony larceny of a vehicle, felony possession of ammunition by a convicted felon, arson, grand larceny, breaking and entering, and misdemeanor destruction of property.

Though not completely ruled out, it appears unlikely that the earlier vehicle sighting in Roanoke was a car being driven by DeHart.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office wishes to thank the numerous agencies that assisted in the search for DeHart, as well as the local news media for their assistance in notifying the public about DeHart and the efforts to locate him.

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